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PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Francis BRIAND et al.

Box Non-fee Amendment

Serial No. (unknown)

GROUP

Filed herewith

Examiner

LASER/ARC HYBRID WELDING PROCESS WITH APPROPRIATE GAS MIXTURE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the first Official Action and calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3-21 as follows:

--3. (Amended) The welding process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the shielding atmosphere is formed by a gas mixture consisting of argon with a content greater than or equal to 70% by volume and of at least one additional compound chosen from H<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub> with a content of 0.1 to 30% by volume, preferably a gas mixture consisting of argon with a content greater than or equal to 70% by volume and of 0.1 to 30% by volume of an additional compound chosen from H<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>.--

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